

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for the treatment of waste water comprising an organic nutrient, wherein the waste water is brought into contact with microorganisms-comprising sludge particles, an oxygen-comprising gas is fed to the sludge particles, and the method further comprises the settling of the sludge particles and the discharge of organic nutrient-depleted waste water, characterised in that
 - in a first step the waste water is fed to sludge granules, under oxygen-depleted conditions
 - after the supply of the waste water to be treated an oxygen-comprising gas is introduced in a second step, with the granules being in a fluidised condition and
 - in a third step, a settling step, the sludge granules are allowed to settle.
2. - 6. (canceled)
7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the waste water is introduced in an amount of 50 to 110%, preferably 80 to 105% and most preferably 90 to 100% of the void volume of the bed.
8. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the introduction of the waste

water is followed by an interval before commencing the second step.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, characterised in that the interval is sufficiently long for the removal of at least 50%, preferably at least 75% and most preferably at least 90% of the organic nutrient from the waste water.
10. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the selection takes place in the third step, wherein the sludge granules that settle more slowly are discharged from the reactor and sludge granules that settle more quickly remain in the reactor.